

# INTUITION

---

**49TH BRITISH NATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION  
CONVENTION (EASTERCON)**

**10-13 April 1998**

***Jarvis Piccadilly and Britannia Hotels, Manchester***

## OUTSIDE

This contains information about the world Out There.  
Stuff inside the hotel can be found in the *Read Me*. The  
programme can be found in the *Programme*.



Obviously, the information in this guide is believed to be correct. However, you may be wise to check details by telephone, especially for anything that involves making a long journey.

## THINGS TO DO IN MANCHESTER IN THE WET

Sue Mason

800 words on the vague chance that you might want to go out of the hotels during your stay in our fair city.

**SHOPPING**—both hotels are on Portland Street, right on the edge of China Town. Go out of the Piccadilly Hotel and turn right down York Street, then take any of the roads leading away from the hotel to find good eateries and interesting Chinese supermarkets selling weird sweets, weirder savouries and knick-knacks. Go left out of the hotel and you are in Piccadilly Gardens. Dodge the numerous buses and the turquoise-and-white trams and head through the sad, threadbare gardens and bear left past Debenhams and Lewis's, down Market Street for the **Arndale Centre** and other cloned high street shops—there is a **Tesco Metro** which is useful and a **Warner Brothers** in the Arndale if you really can't live your life without *another* Wile E Coyote T-shirt. Right off Market Street is High Street. **Batcher's Fabrics** are expensive but have a huge range, and the bottom end of High Street is the centre of the second-hand book ghetto, most noticeable of which is **Paramount Books** on Shude Hill. If you keep on down Market Street under part of the Arndale, you come to St Anne's Square, a **Disney** shop and posh shops leading down to Deansgate which has a **Waterstones**, **Kendals** and **Seattle Coffee Co.**

If you go straight on through Piccadilly Gardens you come to Oldham Street, which has far more interesting shops than the Arndale. There is the **Emporium** on the right, and on the first floor is **Area 51** selling RPGs, CCGs, comics and other neat stuff. On the junction of Church Street is **Affleck's Palace**, a Manchester institution. Three floors of retro and club clothing, vinyl, ethnic clothing and great fun. If you keep walking down Church Street you come to the **Coliseum**, more interesting shops and new age jewellery, tarot readings. Opposite the Coliseum, down some stairs is **Top Dollar Comics**, new and old comics, good prices. If you stay on Oldham Street there are some serious vinyl shops and cafés—a brilliant coffee bar called **Java** (Mocha and Holland cake to die for), also **Space Odyssey** for new comics, T-shirts, Star Wars figures and such. Further still is **Abakhan's**—a mecca for costumers; lots of fabric sold by the pound weight, good prices, fabric on the roll and haberdashery on the first floor.

Running parallel to Oldham Street is Tib Street. At its far end is **New Eon Books**, books and magazines on magic, new age, metaphysical, huge selection of tarot cards and an integral café for you to sit and read your purchases in, civilised. From Tib Street you can get to the **Craft Village**; turn left down Carp Street. The Craft Village, on Oak Street in the old fish market (the smell *has* faded) has interesting hand made ceramics, designer clothes and, on the first floor, the best silver-smith in town, **Ewa Baker**.

**CULTURE**—Nearest to hotel is the **City Art Gallery**. Out of the Piccadilly Hotel, down York Street to Mosley Street, turn left down Mosley Street. Here are lots of banks, if you are short of cash, and City Gallery (0161 832 8034) is about 200 yards down on the left. Slightly further afield, the **Museum of Science and Industry** (0161 833 2184) in Castlefield, is good for rainy days and is at the bottom of Deansgate—30 minutes walk or a short tram ride; get an Altrincham Tram from Piccadilly Gardens. While you are down there, **Granada Studio**



**Tours** (0161 834 3684) is a good way to waste a few hours if you like *Coronation Street* and a theme park atmosphere, though it's liable to be busy on an Easter weekend. Also in Castlefield, there are **canal trips** if you want a close-up look at Manchester's industrial past.

On Deansgate is the Gothic **John Rylands Library** (0161 834 5443), which has to be seen to be believed and has guided tours at noon.

In the opposite direction, down Oxford Road is **Manchester Museum** (0161 275 2634), which has a great Egyptian section—and a huge, scary stuffed tiger (it gave me nightmares as a kid). **The Whitworth Art Gallery** (0161 275 7450) **Platt Fields Gallery of English Costume** (0161 224 5127), which is one of the best collections in the country and lots of good Indian Curry houses, sweet, jewellery and sari shops. Catch a bus; most of the 40s go from Piccadilly Gardens down Oxford Road.

Please remember, it's Easter weekend and many businesses and museums are likely to be shut on Good Friday and Easter Monday; if in doubt, give them a phone call before setting out. Happy hunting.

## THE BEER MONSTER'S GUIDE TO MANCHESTER

Mike Davey

*The first thing you'll notice about Manchester's pubs is that there are a lot of them—some people (not me, I hasten to add) might even say too many. This can cause a problem when you've only been allocated two pages to write about them in, so I've limited myself to a convenient selection giving a wide choice of available beers, plus a few of my personal favourites. Pubs marked ☺ are listed in the 1998 Good Beer Guide.*

### THE FORGERY AND FIRKIN (57 Mosley Street)

Yes, it's a Firkin and, as such, pretty much identical to all the others. Still, the four beers are tasty (brewed at the nearby *Footage and Firkin* on Oxford Road) and it's conveniently close to the Convention. The same good value menu as others in the chain, a giant Connect Four board, and a 'something for everyone' juke box that ranges from the Beatles to Oasis (er, well, perhaps not that varied then).

### WETHERSPOONS (Piccadilly)

I'll be honest, here—I don't like Wetherspoons pubs, finding them over-priced and the beer usually too cold. I'll list this one, though, because it's close to the Convention and, considering the number of people usually in there, the chain obviously has its devotees. This one is just across the Gardens in what was once a Halfords and the developers haven't even been bothered to give it a name. That must tell you something.

### THE HOGSHEAD (64 High Street) ☺

A 'pretend pub' (designed by people that think bric-a-brac and blackboards are vital to the drinking experience), but one which has a well kept and ever-changing range of beers. I find it a little pricey, myself, but those of you from south of Watford may still find it refreshingly cheap.

### THE HARE AND HOUNDS (46 Shudehill) ☺

Almost unspoilt Victorian pub (the television lets it down a little) situated at the edges of Manchester's second-hand bookshop quarter. Tetley mild and bitter, plus one guest. One of the

few pubs in the city centre that opens at 11 AM (not Sundays), so if you're an early starter then this is the place for you.

**THE CITY ARMS** (48 Kennedy Street) ☺

Hidden away a little, but worth seeking out, a proper city centre pub with seven beers. Unfortunately, likely to be closed most of Easter weekend, but you'll probably get in between 11 AM and 3 PM on Saturday if you want to visit. Close to a large *Oddbins*, should your refreshment needs demand portable as well as potable.

Also, **THE VINES** next door serves Boddingtons and John Smiths if you're desperate.

**THE GREY HORSE INN** (80 Portland Street) ☺

South Manchester CAMRA's 1997 Pub of the Year and a good place to try local brew Hydes (mild and bitter, plus maybe the current seasonal ale, Rampant Ram). A small, one-roomed pub with a chocolate mini-egg dispenser on the bar (well, it is Easter).

**THE CIRCUS TAVERN** (86 Portland Street) ☺

They don't come much more 'fun sized' than this Tetley pub. However, it's so small that it gets full rather quickly and the doors get locked. Great if you can get in.

**THE OLD MONKEY** (corner of Portland Street and Princess Street)

Holt's ales are famous all over the country and, while perhaps not to everybody's taste, are certainly cheap. This new, purpose-built, two-storey pub is as good a place as any to try them and wallow in the nostalgia of change from a fiver for a round for five people. The bouncer on the door is usually there to stop *real* troublemakers, rather than people who have the gall to wear badly-dyed trousers and comfortable shoes in public places.

**THE SALISBURY** (James Leigh Street)

Dark, but friendly, rock pub, tucked away behind **GRAND CENTRAL** on Oxford Road. Theakston's (Best, XB and OP) and Courage Directors. Serves excellent value basic food and is the only pub I know with vibrator dispensers in the lavvies.

The **THIRSTY SCHOLAR** next door (under the railway arches leading from Oxford Road station) has a range of five or six beers. Also close is **REVOLUTION**, a bar selling 50 different vodkas for the more hardened drinker.

**THE LASS O' GOWRIE** (36 Charles Street, off Oxford Road, near the BBC)

Hogshead/Whitbread home-brew pub now selling three or four guest beers in addition to their own two brews. They had Fuggles Chocolate Ale on last time we were in, but maybe not by now. A popular pub that can get quite full at times, people spilling onto the pavement outside if the weather's nice. Has a large-screen TV for big sporting events.

**THE CASTLE HOTEL** (66 Oldham Street) ☺

A no-frills (euphemism for a bit tatty), yet friendly Robinson's boozer. Usually features all six of Robinson's beers. Occasional live music. Closed from 5 until 8 PM, Friday and Sunday.

**BAR FRINGE** (8 Swan Street)

A reasonable facsimile of a Belgian bar with sawdust on the floor and a nice selection of draught and bottled Belgian beers, mostly served in the correct glass. Next door to a dirty mag shop.



*The next three are for the real devotee. They are all close together, situated near the top end of Rochdale Road and, although a good ten minutes' walk away (if you get to the Fringe, you're pretty much there) are definitely worth the effort. These three constitute Manchester's best little pub crawl, with a choice of well over twenty ales between them. Happy drinking...*

**THE BEER HOUSE** (Angel Street / Rochdale Road) ☺

Well named. Huge range of British (at least twelve, changing regularly) and foreign beers (including Hoegaarden, Leffe Blonde and Liefmans Kriek on draught) plus continental lagers, real cider and a range of single malt whiskies. Good food and CD juke box, but basically a *drinkers'* pub. The huge, ghostly dog is Fang, and he's a softy.

**THE POT OF BEER** (36 New Mount Street) ☺

Nestled between *The Beer House* and the *Marble*, on a street parallel to Rochdale Road. Until recently a Marstons' pub called the *Harp & Shamrock*, but now refurbished into a nice, usually quiet little free house. Three beers on tap, two on gravity dispense, plus draught Hoegaarden, real cider and a selection of malts. Polish menu during weekday lunchtimes only. Closed Easter Sunday and possibly during the day on Monday.

**THE MARBLE ARCH** (73 Rochdale Road) ☺

At the expense of some of its once wide range of ales, the Marble has just begun selling its own brews. Luckily, they're quite nice, and you'll find up to four of them, supplemented by four guest beers and some real ciders. If the marvellously tiled front room is full, try the one at the back.

*Thanks to Dee, Sue, Neil and Julie, who helped me research all this in one very long day and didn't fall over once. That's dedication.*

## **MANCHESTER RESTAURANTS**

### **Jo and Nick Mills**

Nowadays Manchester boasts a great diversity of restaurants. Some of them are listed here. The entries should mostly be self-explanatory. Numbers following the address (e.g. [21]) refer to the maps of the city centre and, at a larger scale, China Town. Inevitably in compiling this list we have had to rely on published guides, reviews and the like. Entries based on first-hand experience of the restaurant or one of the same chain of restaurants are marked (#).

### **CITY CENTRE**

#### **African**

JOWATA 322 Deansgate[1] 835 1099 *Tuesday-Sunday noon-3 PM & 6-11 PM*. Reputedly friendly atmosphere ('Jowata' is Yoruba for hospitality) offering a choice of authentic cuisine varying from snacks to 3 course meals with a good vegetarian selection. *NO CREDIT CARDS*.

#### **American**

HENRY J. BEANS 42 Blackfriars[16] 832 8900 *Monday-Thursday closes 10.30 PM; Saturday closes 11.30 PM; Sunday closes 10.00 PM*. Bar and restaurant offering cocktails (happy hour 5.30-8.30 PM) and TexMex food.

**PURE LUSH** 27 Sackville Street[23] 288 7800 *Monday-Saturday noon-11 PM; Sunday noon-midnight*. Trendy modern restaurant where staff with electronic order pads serve good modern Californian dishes (a mish-mash of odd ingredients combining to give a mixture of American, Italian, Far Eastern and other flavours with a side order of healthy low-cholesterol eating).

**STARVIN' MARVINS** 80 Deansgate[14] 832 1602 *Monday-Friday 7.30 AM-10.30 PM (2 AM Friday); Saturday 9 AM-2 AM; Sunday 9 AM-10 PM*. Re-creation of the American diner. Rock and roll on the juke-box, burger and fries, shakes, Sundaes and for early risers the great American breakfast with pancakes, hash browns and eggs over easy.

**STICKY FINGERS** 2 St Mary's Street[11] 835 4141 *Daily noon-11.30 PM (11 PM Sunday)*. Former Rolling Stone bassist Bill Wyman opened this place in 1996 following the success of its sister restaurant in London. Great looking interior filled with Stones memorabilia. Gastronomically an up-market burger joint, but one suspects most people don't go here for the food.

### **Armenian**

**ARMENIAN TAVERNA** 3/5 Princess Street Albert Square[39] 834 9025 *Tuesday-Friday noon-2.30 PM; Tuesday-Sunday 5.30-11.30 PM (midnight Saturday & Sunday)*. This 22-year-old basement restaurant is now rather sedate in comparison with its newer and trendier neighbours but offers value-for-money Middle Eastern food for both meat eaters and vegetarians.

### **Australian**

**DOWN UNDER** 9 Southmill Street[43] 834 8778 *Daily noon-11 PM (for food, bar until 2 AM Wednesday-Saturday)*. Aussie bar/restaurant with a nod to bush tucker in menu items like kangaroo, ostrich, crocodile and even crickets. Late bar with live jazz and funk 11 PM-2 AM Friday and Saturday.

### **Cajun**

**GANDERS GO SOUTH** Barton Arcade, Barton Square[17] 832 8362 *Monday-Saturday lunch until 2.30 PM & dinner until 11 PM*. Jazz bar and restaurant with the flavour of New Orleans. Cajun food, steaks, fish etc. Set menus: lunch £6.95, dinner £11.95. Bar happy hours noon-1 PM and 5-7 PM.

### **Caribbean**

**AFRODIZIA** 119 Oldham Street[21] 835 2772 *Opening times irregular*. Food also a bit of an unknown quantity but the Guinness punch is a must.

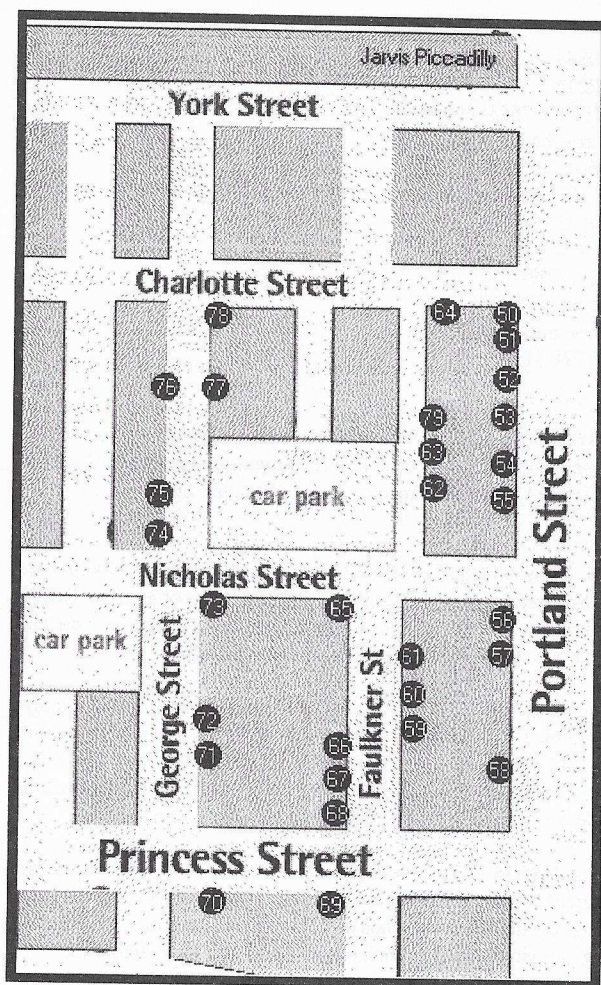
### **Chinese**

Just behind the Piccadilly hotel lies Manchester's China Town with a profusion of Oriental and other restaurants (also Chinese take-aways, supermarkets and bakeries). The Chinese restaurants vary from small to enormous and from basic cafés to smart modern eateries. All tend to offer a variation on traditional Cantonese fare. Some of the more noteworthy are described below. Middle of the range restaurants offer banquets from around £14 up to £25 for the more elaborate spreads. Other restaurants in the area include Japanese, Korean, Nepalese and Thai.

**HONG PAT(#)** 78 Portland Street[47] 228 2485 *Monday-Saturday lunch until 1.45 PM & dinner until 11.45 PM*. Basic family-run restaurant which according to our source serves great food at low prices. The menu also includes Vietnamese dishes.

**KAI'S** 16 Nicholas Street[65] 236 2041 *5 PM-4.30 AM*. Late opening hour is popular with clubbers and other night owls needing sustenance. Buddhist vegetarian dishes available.





**LITTLE YANG SING** 17 George Street[78] 228 7722 *Daily noon-11.30 PM.* Original basement venue for the YANG SING. Now very smartly refurbished.

**NEW EMPEROR** 52-56 George Street[76] 228 2883 *Daily noon-11.45 PM.* Impressive new restaurant on two floors which aims "to raise the standards of the Art of Cuisine".

**PEARL CITY** 33 George Street[72] 228 7683 *12-2 AM (4 AM Friday & Saturday, midnight Sunday).* Enormous traditional Cantonese restaurant which has made several appearances in the *Good Food Guide*. Plenty of set menus including a few Szechuan and Peking dishes.

**PEKING COURT** 44 Princess Street[26] 236 5236 *Monday-Saturday 11.45 AM-2.15 PM & 5.30-11.30 PM (midnight Saturday); Sunday noon-10 PM.* Cooking has a larger Pekinese influence than most of the rest of Chinatown. All you can eat lunchtime buffet £6.40 Tuesday to Friday.

**WONG CHU** Faulkner Street[59] 236 2346 *Daily noon-midnight.* Described as the Chinese equivalent of a 'greasy caff', this eating place has ducks hanging in the window, a generous helping of Chinese customers and some of the cheapest food in Chinatown.

**WOO SANG(#)** George Street[77] 236 3697. The committee ate here on a site visit. Your reviewer found nothing to complain about and would like to go back and sample some of the more elaborate banquets.

**YANG SING** 34 Princess Street[49/69] 236 2200 *Daily noon-11 PM.* For many years regarded as one of the finest Chinese restaurants in the country, marrying traditional cuisine with new ingredients such as pigeon and wild boar. The Dim Sum lunch is renowned.

### Also in Chinatown

BEI JING Portland Street[52] 228 0883

CANTON Portland Street[58] 236 2214

CHARLIE CHAN'S George Street[71] 228 7683 (evenings only)

GREAT WALL RESTAURANT Faulkner Street[66] 237 5664

HAPPY SEASONS Faulkner Street[60] 236 7189

JADE GARDEN JAZZ RESTAURANT 567 Faulkner Street[67] 228 6167 (evenings only)

KWOK MAN Princess Street[48/70] 236 9298

MEI SUM Faulkner Street[61] 236 8307

MOON WAH Faulkner Street[63] 236 0091

NEW HONG KONG Faulkner Street[62] 235 0565

THE PLEASURE RESTAURANT George Street[74] 236 0191

SAN LEE SING Faulkner Street[79] 228 1113

### Dutch

DUTCH PANCAKE HOUSE(#) St Peter's Square[34] 228 1851 *Monday-Saturday noon-11 PM; Sunday noon-10 PM*. Giant-sized pancakes with savoury or sweet toppings—something like 100 varieties to choose from—also waffles. A novel and fun idea for a light meal. Licensed.

### English

THE MARKET RESTAURANT 104 High Street[22] 834 3743 *Wednesday-Friday 6-9.30 PM; Saturday 7-9.30 PM*. Well established restaurant with Monthly changing menu of Modern British food with good vegetarian options. Has a fine selection of bottled beers and an eclectic wine and vodka list. Home of the Manchester 'Pudding Club'. Egon Ronay recommended.

MASH AND AIR 40 Chorlton Street[24] 661 1111 *AIR Daily 6 PM-midnight; MASH Monday-Thursday noon-midnight; Friday noon-1 AM; Saturday noon-2 AM*. Three-in-one bar, restaurant and brewery. Air is a very classy and expensive restaurant which is highly regarded. Mash is a trendy bar with good coffee wheat beers and the on-site brewery's eccentric offerings such as blackcurrant stout. Also Forno, a less expensive brasserie serving Californian-style food.

SIMPLY HEATHCOTE'S Jackson Row[6] 835 3536 *Monday-Saturday noon-2.30 PM & 6-11 PM; Sunday noon-9 PM*. Third restaurant of big name chef Paul Heathcote sited in the former Register Office. If you don't feel like splashing out then a set lunch at £11.50 for three courses, £9.50 for two courses represents an amazing bargain. Sunday brunch (noon-4 PM) also looks tempting.

### French

BEAUJOLAIS RESTAURANT 70 Portland Street[56] 236 7260 *Tuesday-Friday noon-2 PM; Monday-Friday 6-10.30 PM; Saturday 7-11 PM*. Unpretentious family-run French restaurant on the edge of China Town. Desserts said to be good.

BRASSERIE ST PIERRE 57-63 Princess Street[40] 228 0231 *Tuesday-Friday noon-2 PM; Monday-Saturday 6-10.30 PM*. Expensive French restaurant in the *fin de siècle* style, run by Francis Carol—flamboyant restaurateur and friend of Marco Pierre White. The place to go for that special celebration.

Café NOBLE 68 Sackville Street[27] 236 5011 *Monday-Saturday 11 AM-11 PM*. Café-restaurant close to UMIST serves baguettes, salads and cakes during the day, more substantial fare after 6 PM.



Café ROUGE(# 82-84 Deansgate[13] 839 0414 *Daily 10 AM-11 PM (10.30 PM Sunday)*. One of a chain of identikit bistro-style restaurants. The food is quite agreeable but the unvarying menu soon loses its appeal. Good place for a beer, coffee or citron pressé.

LES BOUCHONS 63 Bridge Street[18] 832 9393 *Monday-Friday noon-2.30 PM; Monday-Saturday 6-11 PM*. Acclaimed by *City Life* as the finest classic French restaurant in the city centre. Set lunch available at a very reasonable £7.90, otherwise expect to spend quite a lot more.

PIERRE VICTOIRE Chapel Walks[44] 819 1997 *Daily noon-3 PM & 5.30-11 PM*. Each branch of this franchise devises its own menu but all offer great value no-frills French food and affordable wine. Even three courses with drinks and coffee should comfortably leave change out of £20 and lunch-time (£5.90) and the early evening set menus are a snip. Puddings tend not to be the strongest section of their menu.

PIERRE VICTOIRE(#) Peter Street[46] 839 9988 *Daily noon-3 PM & 5.30-11 PM*. Slightly lacklustre example of this brand name—not quite so good as others that we've tried. Still well worth the money, but for preference choose the Chapel Walks branch.

## **Greek**

BOUZOUKI BY NIGHT 88 Princess Street[47] 236 9282 *Tuesday-Saturday 7 PM-2 AM*. Reasonable mezze meals with the obligatory plate smashing and knees-up.

DIMITRI'S 1 Campfield Arcade Tonman Street Castlefield[2] 839 3319 *Daily 11 AM-midnight (Friday & Saturday 1 AM)*. Award-winning bar and restaurant sited in a glass-roofed arcade on the side of Upper Campfield Market. The bar serves draught Budvar.

## **Indian**

To enjoy Manchester's own brand of Indian dining requires a visit to Rusholme (for which see Further Away section). However the city centre contains both a number of high-class restaurants and, around the Markets area, a clutch of basic curry houses. (As these latter were originally opened to serve Asian workers in the clothing industry, not all may be open in the evenings.)

### **Restaurants**

ASHOKA 105 Portland Street[29] 228 7550 *Monday-Saturday 12.30-2.30 PM; Daily 5.30-11.30 PM*. Deluxe Indian restaurant serving top quality food.

GAYLORD Spring Gardens[45] 832 4866 *Daily noon-2.30 PM & 6-11.30 PM*. Part of a worldwide chain. Previous recollections of this chain, admittedly many years ago, are of a very refined and high-class operation serving food fit for Maharajahs.

PICCADILLY INDIAN RESTAURANT 10 London Road[28] 235 5443 *Sunday-Thursday 6 PM-2 AM Friday-Saturday 6 PM-3 AM*. Advertises itself as specialising in Tandoori, English, Indian and Bangladeshi cuisine. Good value run-of-the-mill restaurant. Look out for special offers such as a free bottle of wine for a party of six.

RAJDOOT 18 Albert Square[37] 834 2176 *Daily noon-2.30 PM & 6.30-11.30 PM*. Another opulent establishment with carved sandalwood screens invoking the splendours of the Raj. Popular venue for business lunches. There is also a branch in Birmingham and the food there suggests a high standard of cooking.

CUCKOO CHEF 71 Oldham Street[20] 834 0858. Licensed curry house.

GARAM MASALA 71 Oldham Street[20] 839 3706 *Daily lunch until 3 PM & dinner until 11.30 PM.*  
Basic good value-for-money restaurant.

### **Curry Houses**

AL FAISAL TANDOORI John Street 834 3266

CAFÉ IMRAN High Street 835 2606

CAFÉ MARHABA Back Piccadilly 228 7377

CAFÉ MEHRAN Newton Street 228 1593

CHANDNI TANDOORI High Street 834 3448

GREEN CHILLI Turner Street 839 8411

KABANA Tib Street 835 2447

KURRY HOME John Street 834 9040

RASOIE TANDOOR High Street/Thomas Street 832 9513

YADGAR CAFÉ High Street 834 7925

### **Italian**

BELLA PASTA 96 Deansgate[12] 832 4332. Member of a chain with a menu of pasta dishes or main courses served with pasta.

EST EST EST(#) 5 Ridgefield[7] 839 9400 *Sunday-Thursday 11.30 AM-11 PM (10.30 Sunday); Friday-Saturday 11.30 AM-11.30 PM.* Large modern looking and classy Italian restaurant with two precursors in the suburbs. The food is excellent and imaginative without being over-priced and there is a good selection of continental beers. The restaurant seems to welcome children. Noisy and crowded at busy times.

GORGIO PIZZERIA(#) Portland Street[32] 236 5544. Very acceptable Italian food served in pleasant modern surroundings.

GIULIO'S TERRAZZA 14 Nicholas Street[73] 228 6501 *Monday-Saturday noon-2.30 PM & 6-11.15 PM.* This long-established restaurant proclaims itself to be "simply the best in Italian cooking". Offers an early dinner menu for £7.55 before 7 PM.

ISOLA BELLA Dolefield Crown Square[42] 831 7099 *Monday-Saturday noon-2.15 PM & 6-11.15 PM.* Good class of restaurant serving classic Italian dishes. Holds an award from the Italian government for the authenticity of its cuisine. Early evening menu Monday-Saturday 6-7 PM—three courses for £11.50.

PIZZA EXPRESS 6-8 South King Street[8] 832 6780 *Daily 11.30 AM-midnight (11.30 PM Sunday).* One of the busiest branches in the country of this widespread chain. If you don't already know, it serves very good pizzas and not much else.

RISTORANTE DON ANTONIO 52 Portland Street[53] 236 0258 *Monday-Friday lunch until 2 PM; Monday-Thursday dinner until 11 PM; Friday-Saturday dinner until 11.30 PM.* Family-owned restaurant. Set menus lunch £6.95, dinner £11.50.

SAN LORENZO 42 Portland Street[51] 236 6631 *Daily lunch until 2.30 PM & dinner until 11 PM.* Long-established restaurant specialising in southern Italian cooking.



## Japanese

SHOGUN TEPPANYAKI(#) 111 Portland Street[31] 236 0809 *Monday-Friday noon-2.30 PM & Monday-Saturday 6-11 PM*. In a teppan yaki restaurant diners sit around a heated metal surface on which the food is cooked by theatrical egg-juggling chefs. Banquets including starters, salad, miso soup, a selection of fish and/or meats range in price from about £20-30. Sake is the traditional accompaniment, but Japanese beer is good too.

TEPPANYAKI(#) 58/60 George Street[75] 228 2219 *Monday-Friday 12-2.30 PM & Monday-Saturday 6-11 PM*. The oldest of Manchester's Japanese restaurants. Similar to the Shogun (and, like it, also has a branch in Birmingham). Go in a group of around 8-10 in order to fill a table.

## Korean

KOREANA 40a King Street West[10] 832 4330 *Monday-Friday noon-2.30 PM & 6.30-10.30 PM (11 PM Friday); Saturday 5.30-11 PM*. Korean cuisine has been described as combining the delicacy of Japanese cooking with the robust qualities of Chinese. Kim chee—a fiery pickled cabbage—is a popular condiment. This highly recommended restaurant (*Good Food Guide* 1997) offers authentic cuisine including a five course banquet for £19.50.

YOUNA KOREAN AND JAPANESE RESTAURANT(#) 54 Portland Street[54] 236 0783 *Daily 6-11.30 PM*. Mostly Korean with a few Japanese touches—sushi is available on Saturdays. A little similar to Chinese restaurants but with some enjoyably different dishes, such as pork in barbecue sauce cooked at the table. Relatively cheap with banquets starting at £15.

## Malaysian

PENANG VILLAGE 54 Faulkner Street[68] 236 2650 *Daily noon-2.30 PM & 5.30-11 PM*. Another well recommended East Asian alternative to the more usual Chinese fare. Malaysian cuisine includes curries, sweet and sour dishes, satay and coconut. In the middle of the restaurant is a canoe which doubles as a buffet table (Monday-Thursday).

## Mexican

EL MACHO CANTINAS 103 Portland Street[30] 236 9626 *Monday-Saturday 5.30-11 PM*. Not to everyone's taste but devotees of refried beans and jalapenos will probably like it. Also advertises seafood specialities and Aztec Tamales.

## Nepalese

KAILASH 34 Charlotte Street[64] 236 1085 *Monday-Saturday noon-2.30 PM & daily 6.30-11.30 PM*. Unlike many Nepalese restaurants this one includes the best feature of that country's indigenous food, the cooking of the Tibetan refugees. Nepal's own cooking often includes little other than vegetable curry and lentils; Tibetan dishes include Momocha (lamb dumplings) and Aloo Tama, which contains bamboo.

## Pan-Asian

THE COLONY 16 Princess Street[33] 236 4516 *Monday-Friday noon-2.30 PM & Monday-Saturday 5.30-10.30 PM*. With the minimalist style of a Japanese place, this smart new restaurant serves dishes originating everywhere between Sri Lanka and Japan. Original dishes include Crispy Fish with Noodles cooked with a Chinese sausage sauce and a dessert of ras malai with spicy chocolate. Early evening menu £8.

TAMPOPO(#) 16 Albert Square[38] *Monday-Saturday noon-2 PM & 6-11 PM*. Fast food Japanese style: one-course noodle dishes with optional side orders, served at long tables with bench seating. Dishes include Thai, Malaysian and Vietnamese as well as Japanese. No bookings, just turn up and queue. *NO SMOKING*.

### Spanish

EL RINCON Longworth Street[4] 839 8819 *Daily noon-midnight (11 PM Sunday)*. Well hidden down side streets, this restaurant is favoured by *City Life* whose reviewer is particularly fond of their tripe. Also good paella and fish dishes.

LA TASCA 76 Deansgate[15] 834 8234 *Daily noon-11 PM (10.30 Sunday)*. Tapas bar which has been so successful among the growing numbers of such establishments that it is now rapidly spawning other local branches.

### Thai

CHIANG RAI 16 Princess Street[33] 237 9511 *Monday-Saturday noon-2.30 PM & daily 6-11 PM*. Classy basement restaurant serving excellent Thai food including Northern Thai and vegetarian dishes. Listed in the 1997 *Good Food Guide*. Set lunch £5 Monday-Friday.

ROYAL ORCHID 36 Charlotte Street[50] 236 5183 *Tuesday-Friday 11.30 AM-2.30 PM & Monday-Saturday 6-11.30 PM*. Elegant upmarket sister of the SIAM ORCHID.

SIAM ORCHID(#) 54 Princess Street[55] 236 1388. Slightly cheaper than the CHIANG RAI and ROYAL ORCHID but still serves very good and authentic food. *Good Food Guide* listed.

### Turkish

CAFÉ ISTANBUL 79 Bridge Street[19] 833 9942 *Monday-Saturday noon-3 PM & 6-11 PM*. Sophisticated Turkish restaurant listed in the 1997 *Good Food Guide*. Baklava is reckoned to be superb.

EFES RESTAURANT St Peter's Square[35] 236 3474 *Monday-Saturday noon-3.30 PM*. Large, newly refurbished bar and restaurant named after a Turkish beer. Set lunch £4.95.

EFES TAVERNA 46 Princess Street[25] 236 1824 *Tuesday-Saturday 5 PM-2 AM*. Satisfying food at reasonable prices accompanied by music, belly-dancing and belly-laugh.

TOPKAPI 4 Peter Street[3] 832 8133. The original Topkapi served cheap kebabs which could be eaten at the counter while drinking rough red wine, raki or bitter coffee. Now undergoing refurbishment.

TOPKAPI PALACE 205 Deansgate[5] 832 9803. More refined member of the TOPKAPI family. Kebabs and vegetarian starters are recommended. Set lunch £5.45.

### Vegetarian

There are no exclusively vegetarian restaurants in the city centre but restaurants which have been recommended for vegetarians include: THE COLONY, DUTCH PANCAKE HOUSE, GAYLORD, KAI'S, KOREANA, THE MARKET RESTAURANT, PENANG VILLAGE and PURE LUSH.



## **FURTHER AWAY**

For those of an adventurous disposition Rusholme, Fallowfield, Withington and West Didsbury lie south of the city centre at distances of between 1½ and 4 miles along Wilmslow Road (leave the city via Oxford Road) and can be reached by buses from outside the Piccadilly. Sale is 6 miles from Manchester on the A56 and can be reached by tram (Metrolink). Upper Brook Street forms part of the A34 and the restaurants there are about 1½ miles south of the city centre (leave the city via Princess Street).

## **Chinese**

**CHOY HING VILLAGE**(#) 6 Brooklands Road, Sale 976 6688. There are good Oriental restaurants outside of China Town. This one is just outside Brooklands Metrolink station, only 15 minutes from the hotel by tram. We were impressed by the quality of the food on our last visit. High class and in a suburban location, likely to be busy at weekends so book.

## **Cosmopolitan**

**MANCHESTER UNITED'S RED CAFÉ** Sir Matt Busby Way, Old Trafford 703 8207 *Daily until 10.30 PM*. Family-oriented restaurant where one can watch videos of spectacular goals while you eat. If you like the football a good place to go, otherwise probably not.

## **English**

**THE DRAWING ROOM** 254 Moston Lane, Moston 203 4967 *Tuesday-Saturday 10.30 AM-2.30 PM & 6-11 PM (last orders 9.30)*. The rave reviews given to this North Manchester restaurant mandated its inclusion here. With an open fire and old-fashioned style, it serves standard fare at lunchtime, more imaginative dishes in the evening—without costing the earth.

**FELIX**(#) 156 Burton Road, West Didsbury 445 1912 *Tuesday-Friday noon-2 PM & daily 5.30-10.30 PM (Sunday 6 PM)*. Simple interior complements elegant but un-ostentatious food. Varied menu with choice of about six dishes for each course, including vegetarian. Also £10 set dinner 5.30-7.30 PM and all evening Sunday and Monday. The owners also run GREENS and FOOD (see below).

**HARRY RAMSDEN'S**(#) 1 Water Street 832 9144 *Monday 11.30 AM-10 PM; Tuesday, Wednesday 11.30 AM-10.30 PM; Thursday-Saturday 11.30 AM-11 PM; Sunday 9.30 AM-9.30 PM*. This franchise outlet of the world's most famous fish and chip café and take-away lies just beyond the city centre, close to the tourist attractions of Castlefields. Not quite the best fish and chips in the world but very much better than most. The special is usually salmon, deep-fried or poached. Licensed.

**THE LIME TREE** 8 Lapwing Lane, West Didsbury 445 1217 *Sunday, Tuesday-Friday noon-2.30 PM & daily 6-10.30 PM*. High class Modern British and French cuisine in a pleasant modern setting. *Good Food Guide* entry in 1997. Set lunches at £8.95 and Sunday lunch £11.95 especially good value, otherwise expensive

## **Indian**

About 1½ miles from the city centre lies the Asian cultural quarter of Manchester, **Rusholme**. Here you can find well over thirty Indian restaurants and take-aways as well as fashion and jewellery shops. There is a great variety of eateries large and small, from the plain to the stylish, but all are good value. While not impossible to get a bad meal here, it is very unusual. You could do much worse than stop at the first restaurant that you come to leaving the city, the massive

SANGAM, but then there's so much more to see further up the road. We have first-hand experience of the following.

DARBAR(#) 67 Wilmslow Road 224 4392. Runner-up in the 1996 National Curry Chef of the Year competition. Seemingly popular with Asian customers. Excellent speciality dishes but they may take time to cook.

ROYAL NAZ(#) Ifco Centre, Wilmslow Road 256 1060. Crowded interior mitigated by comfortable seating and great food.

SANGAM(#) 15 Wilmslow Road 257 3922. Huge and hugely popular restaurant on two floors, a good place for a large group meal. First-rate food.

### **Middle Eastern**

ALADDIN 529 Wilmslow Road, Withington 434 8588 *Tuesday-Thursday 4-10.30 PM; Friday-Sunday 1-10.30 PM*. Small restaurant serving excellent value kebabs and other Middle Eastern fare. *UNLICENSED*—take your own booze. *NO CREDIT CARDS*.

CEDARS 445 Wilmslow Road, Withington 445 9866 *Daily 6 PM-midnight*. As the name suggests this restaurant specialises in Lebanese food which can be washed down with the Lebanese wine, Chateau Musar; Arak, a fiery spirit; and Arabic coffee. Be prepared to spend up to £25 if you want a full spread of starters and main course.

HANNI'S 4 Brooklands Road, Sale 973 6606 *Monday-Saturday 6-10.30 PM (Friday & Saturday 11 PM)*. Adjacent to Brooklands Metrolink station and only 15 minutes from the hotel by tram. Serves dishes from across the Middle East and North Africa, including cous-cous dishes. In the *Good Food Guide* since 1997.

### **Japanese**

KICHO(#) 123 Cross Street, Sale 969 8123 *Daily 6.30-11 PM*. Kimonoed waitresses, paper screens and swords on the wall give this establishment a much more traditional Japanese feel than the two Teppanyaki places. A full range of Japanese dishes such as yakitori, sukiyaki and excellent but limited sushi and sashimi are available. Japanese food is never cheap but, if anything, Kicho is a tad less expensive than the two Teppanyaki places in town.

### **Nepalese**

NEW TABAK 199-201 Wilmslow Road, Rusholme 248 7812 *Daily noon-2 AM*. One of Rusholme's larger and smarter restaurants with distinctive dishes such as Kaju Gosht, a rich lamb stew with yoghurt, nuts and cream. Sunday buffet £4.95 is fantastic value.

### **Pan-Asian**

CACHUMBA 220 Burton Road, West Didsbury 445 2479 *Monday-Saturday 6 PM-1 AM*. Eccentric café serving a miscellany of spicy dishes from all over Asia with a touch of North Africa on the side. Their Vietnamese hot king prawn soup is highly praised. *UNLICENSED*—no corkage for parties of up to four. *NO CREDIT CARDS*.

FOOD(#) 317 Wilmslow Road, Fallowfield 248 0546 *Daily 5.30-10.30 PM*. Third venture by the owners of FELIX and GREENS. Pleasing example of fashionable Asian influenced cuisine. Menu is arranged into 'small dishes' and 'large dishes' rather than starters and main courses.



YO YO'S 258 Wilmslow Road, Fallowfield 257 0770 *Sunday-Wednesday noon-10.30 PM; Thursday-Saturday noon-11.30 PM.* Japanese-style noodle bar and restaurant. Huge building with garish modern exterior contains downstairs bar with waterfall display and upstairs eatery serving healthy value-for-money food such as Udon noodles with Gyoza (Japanese dumplings).

### **Persian**

KOLBEH 267 Upper Brook Street 273 3587 *Tuesday-Friday noon-2.30 PM & Tuesday-Saturday 6-10 PM; Sunday 1-8 PM.* Authentic family-run restaurant with live music and dancing. Persian cooking combines lamb or chicken with ingredients such as pomegranate, tamarind and walnut, accompanied by rice and bread.

TANDOORI KITCHEN 131-133 Wilmslow Road, Rusholme 224 2329 *Monday-Friday noon-2.30 PM & 5-midnight; Saturday noon-midnight; Sunday 1-11 PM.* As well as the usual clay oven offerings also serves a range of Persian dishes which are herby rather than spicy. *UNLICENSED* - take your own.

### **Thai**

THAI-E-SARN 210 Burton Road, West Didsbury 445 5200 *Tuesday-Friday noon-2.30 PM & Tuesday-Sunday 6-11.30 PM.* Unusual dishes from North East Thailand and Laos at very reasonable prices.

### **Vegetarian**

FALLEN ANGELS 263 Upper Brook Street 273 4327 *Tuesday-Friday 5.30-10.30 PM Saturday 6-11 PM.* Not far from the university, the decor, food and music are distinctively Third World. The food is described as tasty, plentiful and cheap. Only £1 corkage charge to take your own booze.

THE GREENHOUSE 331 Great Western Street, Rusholme 224 0730 *Monday-Saturday noon-midnight; Sunday noon-11.30.* Excellent and imaginative vegetarian food with good choice of beers and wine. Three-course set meal £7.99. *NON-SMOKING.*

GREENS 43 Lapwing Lane, West Didsbury 434 4259 *Tuesday-Friday 12-2 PM & daily 5.30-10.30 PM*

Original member of chain that now includes FOOD and FELIX. The food here is gourmet-style vegetarian. Unlike its two sister establishments this operates a BYO policy.

ON THE 8TH DAY 107/111 Oxford Road 273 4878 *Monday-Friday 9 AM-7 PM Saturday 10 AM-4 PM* Café in long established co-op close to the Universities which once merited an entry in the *Good Food Guide*. Café is *UNLICENSED* but you can buy a bottle from their shop next door. *NON-SMOKING.*

PUNJAB SWEET HOUSE 177 Wilmslow Road, Rusholme 225 2960 *Sunday-Thursday noon-11 PM; Friday-Saturday noon-midnight.* One of the cheapest eats in Rusholme. Differs from its neighbours not only in being purely vegetarian but also in serving the food of South India (Dosas etc).

See also THE DRAWING ROOM, CACHUMBA, FELIX and most of Rusholme.

### **INTERNET CAFÉ**

The nearest is in the Oxford Road, near the Odeon.



